

THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN



VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1
December 2011

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Special Points of Interest:

- Immunization Grace Period and Waiver Requests
- New School Nurse Workshop (Day 2) - December 6, 2011



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Medical Advisors
School Nurse Supervisors
Local Directors of Health
Health Care Providers

FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS
Immunization Program Manager

DATE: November 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Immunization Grace Period and Waiver Requests

The purpose of this communication is to define and clarify the grace period allowed on immunizations, and to notify you that the process of requesting a waiver for vaccines administered during the grace period is no longer necessary.

The following is an excerpt from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP), *General Recommendations on Immunization*, January 2011, page 5, "In clinical practice, vaccine doses occasionally are administered at intervals less than the minimum interval or at ages younger than the minimum age. Doses administered too close together or at too young an age can lead to a suboptimal immune response. However, administering a dose a few days earlier than the minimum interval or age is unlikely to have a substantially negative effect on the immune response to that dose. Vaccine doses administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum interval or age are considered valid... (Day 1 is the day before the day that marks the minimum age or minimum interval for a vaccine.) Doses of any vaccine administered ≥ 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age appropriate. The repeat dose should be spaced after the invalid dose by the recommended minimum interval... If the first dose in a series is given ≥ 5 days before the recommended minimum age, the dose should be repeated on or after the date when the child reaches at least the minimum age. If the vaccine is a live vaccine, ensuring that a minimum interval of 28 days has elapsed from the invalid dose is recommended."

The Department of Public Health has formerly recognized this 4 day grace period, but has had a waiver application process at the Immunization Program for individual students vaccinated during the grace period. However, due to the significant burden this process places on health care providers and school nursing staff, we will no longer be supporting the waiver application process. Doses administered to students during the 4 day grace period should be counted as valid and no further action is necessary. However, doses administered 5 or more days prior to the minimum age or interval will not be counted as valid shots and will need to be repeated for school entry. This policy change does not impact or alter the recommended minimum age and/or intervals and should not be viewed as a change in practice.

The minimum age and intervals between immunization doses can be found in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases* (also known as *The Pink Book*), Appendix A at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/A/age-interval-table.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 860-509-7929.

2011 STATE HONOR ROLL

Most States Still Don't Make the Grade on Asthma & Allergy School Health



The State Honor Roll of Asthma and Allergy School Policies, www.StateHonorRoll.org, is an annual research project of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) to identify states with the most comprehensive and preferred statewide public policies supporting people with asthma, food allergies, anaphylaxis risk and related allergic diseases in the United States elementary, middle and high schools. The goal of this report is to identify state-level progress towards better school-based policies, and to provide a blueprint for asthma and allergy advocates nationwide.

The AAFA has **chosen Connecticut as one of the six Honor Roll states** for its 2011 State Honor Roll™. The 2011 State Honor Roll celebrates states that exhibit exemplary statewide school policies that promote asthma and allergy management and prevention for students. The full report, press release and other materials are located on the AAFA Web site at www.statehonorroll.com.

Online Resources for Disaster Preparedness



Following the devastating winds and floods resulting from Tropical Storm Irene, a Presidential disaster declaration was issued for the State of Connecticut on September 2, 2011. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have partnered to provide outreach to elementary schools in the state.

FEMA and DEEP have created a "Teacher's Guide to Online Resources" which summarizes four Web sites that educates elementary children on preparing for and responding to disasters. The Web site programs are complete with curriculum, instructions, and activities on emergency plans, disaster supplies, evacuation, animals, and shelters. They all aim at creating a safer environment at school and home.

We hope the destructive Tropical Storm becomes a learning opportunity to better prepare young children for coping with the next disaster. In addition, the most recent nor'easter that hit in late October 2011, is a reminder of the importance to stay tuned to the weather channel for the latest storm related information.

The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) proudly presents the Web site featuring the Student Tools for Emergency Planning program that teaches 4th and 5th grade students what to do in emergency scenarios and empowers them to implement life-saving preparedness initiatives in their homes. Information and materials are located on the RIEMA Web site at <http://www.riema.ri.gov/step/index.html>.



Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) Membership

Access the ASNC's Web site to join or renew your membership at <http://www.ctschoolnurses.org/join-asnc.html>.

The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
C/O Connecticut Nurses Association
377 Research Parkway, Suite 2D
Meriden, Connecticut 06450-7160
203-238-1207 Extension 27

Professional Development Opportunities

Professional Development Opportunities with Connecticut State Department of Education Cadre of Trainers

Coordinated School Health Services Cadre of Trainers

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/LIB/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/Prodev.pdf>

This Cadre provides current information through interactive, research-based workshops that promote best practices within the context of School Health. The goal of this project is to offer professional development designed to increase skills and raise awareness about health and mental health services in schools. Workshop opportunities include:

- Asthma Management for Schools;
- Documentation: Implications in School Health;
- Food Allergies at School; and
- Understanding Section 504.

Pregnancy prevention/HIV/STD Cadre of Trainers

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/LIB/sde/PDF/deps/student/CSH/Pregnancy_Prevention_PD.pdf

The Pregnancy, HIV/sexually transmitted diseases (STD) Prevention Cadre of Trainers conducts quality, interactive, research-based workshops that promote health-enhancing behaviors in children and youth. The workshops may be scheduled as an after school, half, or full day professional development training opportunity. The Cadre also presents statewide workshops at regional locations throughout Connecticut. Workshop opportunities include:

- Helping Young People Visualize Their Way to A Healthier Future: The New "Tell Me What You See" STD, Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS Prevention Initiative;
- Making Proud Choices; and
- Activities That Work: Innovative Ways to Address Pregnancy, HIV/STD Prevention.

Cadre of Physical Education Trainers

<http://www.ctpecadre.com/>

Cadre members can provide presentations and workshops related to a variety of physical education topics such as best practices in physical education, physical fitness assessment, infusing physically active learning throughout the curriculum, adapted physical education, and curriculum analysis. Workshop opportunities include:

- The Wellness Model, Re-Thinking the Delivery of K-12 Physical Education;
- The ABCs of the IEP in APE (Adapted Physical Education); and
- PE CADRE Dance Module: *So You Think You Can't Dance*.



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